

The Prince William Area Agency on Aging has entered into a contract with the Veterans Administration Medical Center – DC (VAMC-DC) to provide options counseling for the new Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program (VDHCBS). This program is now in 15 states with over 500 Veterans being served. It is a federal partnership between the Veterans Affairs' Health Administration with the US Administration on Aging. The Prince William Area is one of only two communities in Virginia where this service is available.

It helps Veterans who are nursing home eligible stay in the community by supporting their choices for hiring whom and what they want to provide their care. Being nursing home eligible means that the Veteran is

- Unable to perform at least three Activities of Daily Living: bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, transferring **or**
- Impaired cognitively with a condition such as a brain injury or Alzheimer's Disease **or**
- Receiving hospice services **or**
- Unable to perform at least two Activities of Daily Living (listed in the first bullet) and has two of the following
 - Recently been discharged from a nursing facility or nursing home discharge contingent on receipt of home and community-based services;
 - Recently discharged from inpatient rehabilitation facility or discharge contingent on receipt of HCBS;
 - Age of 75 years or older;
 - 3 hospitalizations or 12 outpatient/emergency evaluations in the past 12 months;
 - Diagnosis of clinical depression;
 - Lives alone in the community.

The Veterans will receive an assessment and care planning assistance. Then he/she will decide for themselves, or with participant representatives, what mix of goods and services will best meet their and their family caregivers' care needs, so the Vets can live independently in the community. They will manage flexible, individual budgets the amount of which is determined by the VAMC-DC. They can hire and supervise their own workers, including family or friends.

The Prince William Area Agency on Aging will help arrange for the serviced based upon the needs and preferences of the Veterans. An Options Counselor will complete an assessment, help with the care plan and work with the financial management services (FMS). The FMS will perform background checks on the workers decided upon by the Vets, perform payroll duties including taxes and make certain that liability insurance is in place.

If a Veteran you know seems to be eligible, based on the physical criteria mentioned above, please encourage them to contact the VAMC-DC at (202) 745-3883 and ask for information about the VDHCBS program.